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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/032,326	12/31/2001	Yukio Sawajiri	SAWAJIRI=2	4583

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EXAMINER

HO, THOMAS Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3677

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/032,326

Applicant(s)

SAWAJIRI ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas Y Ho

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 April 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 16 April 2003 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Makamura USPN4981313 in view of Mark GB2336178. It should be noted that Mark GB2336178 was previously referred to as Meritor GB2336178 in the previous office action mailed 10/16/02.

As to claim 1, Makamura discloses:

- A longitudinal plate-like metal base 1 to be fixed to a vehicle body.
- A U-shaped metal engaging member 5 including a first leg part 3 (left).]
- A second leg part 3 (right) which is in parallel with the first leg part.
- A front connecting part 4 which connects a front end of the first leg part and a front end of the second leg part.
- The longitudinal length of both the first leg part and the second leg part are perpendicular to the plane of the metal base (Figure 2-3).
- Each of said first leg part and said second leg part having, at rear end thereof which projects on a rear side of the base through a mounting hole 14 of the base, a rear caulking flange 6 with a larger diameter than that of the mounting hole engaged with a rear surface of the base.

Art Unit: 3677

- A front caulking flange (not numbered) with a larger diameter than that of the mounting hole engaged on a front side of the base.
- Said first leg part having, at a front side portion thereof, a latch engaging part which is engageable with an engaging recess of a latch of the vehicle door latch device.

Makamura fails to disclose or suggest:

- Said first leg part having a reinforced large diameter part with a larger diameter than that of the latch engaging part between the front caulking flange of the first leg part and the latch engaging part.
- A length of said reinforced large diameter part being 20% or more of the length of the first leg part 18.

Mark discloses a first leg part having a reinforced large diameter part 18 with a larger diameter than that of the latch engaging part 22 between the front base engaging portion of the first leg part and the latch engaging part, because the use of the increased thickness limb parts gives substantial added strength and durability to the striker (pg.3, 3rd full paragraph). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the legs disclosed by Makamura to have reinforced large diameter parts, as taught by Mark, to provide added strength and durability to the striker.

As to claim 2, Makamura discloses:

- Said second leg part 3 (right) has the same shape as said first leg part 3 (left).

As to claim 3, Makamura discloses:

- Said latch engaging part (top portion near 3/4) has the same diameter as said front connecting part 4.

As to claim 4, Mark discloses the following not disclosed by Makamura:

- A tapered part is provided between said reinforced large diameter part 18/20 and said latch engaging part 22.

As to claim 5, Mark discloses the following not disclosed by Makamura:

- The length of said reinforced large diameter part is 25% or more of the length of said first leg part 18.

As to claim 6, Makamura discloses:

- Said second leg part 3 (right) has the same shape as said first leg part 3 (left).
- Said latch engaging part (top portion near 3/4) has the same diameter as said front connecting part 4.

Mark discloses the following not disclosed by Makamura:

- A tapered part is provided between said reinforced large diameter part 18 and said latch engaging part 22.

As to claim 7, Mark discloses the following not disclosed by Makamura:

- The length of said reinforced large diameter part is 25% or more of the length of said first leg part 18.

As to claim 8, Mark discloses the following not disclosed by Makamura:

- The length of said reinforced large diameter part is 30% or more of the length of said first leg part 18.

As to claim 9, Makamura discloses:

- A rear caulking flange 6 is the rear connecting part that connects the U-shaped member 5 to the metal base 1. It is clear from the drawings that the rear caulking

Art Unit: 3677

flange near 6 has a very small dimension/length in the longitudinal direction of the first leg part 3 (left).

Mark discloses the following not disclosed by Makamura:

- Said reinforced large diameter part has a length of twice or more the length of said rear connecting part, in the longitudinal direction of said first leg part 18. The reinforced large diameter part extends almost the complete distance of the first leg part 18. It would be obvious that in the combination of Makamura in view of Mark, that the thin flange near 6 of Makamura would be at least 3 times as short as the reinforced large diameter part of Mark.

As to claim 10, Makamura discloses:

- A rear caulking flange 6 is the rear connecting part that connects the U-shaped member 5 to the metal base 1.

Mark discloses the following not disclosed by Makamura:

- Said reinforced large diameter part has a length of triple or more the length of said rear connecting part, in the longitudinal direction of said first leg part 18.

Response to Arguments

The objections recited in the office action filed 10/16/02 to the drawings and title have been withdrawn in light of correction submitted in the amendment filed on 4/16/03.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112 1st paragraph has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Art Unit: 3677

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Y Ho whose telephone number is (703)305-4556. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J Swann can be reached on (703)306-4115. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)872-9326 for regular communications and (703)872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-1113.

Application/Control Number: 10/032,326

Page 7

Art Unit: 3677

TYH

May 31, 2003


ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER